

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 2 are all the claims pending in the present application.

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Lun (JP 7-18068) in view of Endo et al (EP 0 420 564 A2) and Kawatsu (US 6,025,286) for the reasons of record.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The present invention according to claim 1 is directed to a tape cassette and recites "wherein one of the center pin and the flat plate portion is molded mainly of polyacetal system synthetic resin, the other is molded mainly of polybutylene-system or polyethylene-system synthetic resin, and titanium oxide is added to the polybutylene-system or polyethylene-system synthetic resin." Thus, in the present invention, for example, if the center pin is molded mainly of polyacetal system synthetic resin, then the flat plate portion is molded mainly of polybutylene-system or polyethylene-system synthetic resin containing titanium oxide. Accordingly, the center pin and the flat plate portion of the present invention are molded using different types of synthetic resins.

The Examiner acknowledges that Lun does not disclose adding an inorganic powder to at least one of these two kinds of synthetic resins. To make up for the deficiencies of Lun, the Examiner cites Endo as teaching the addition of inorganic powder to polybutylene or polyethylene synthetic resin.

It is respectfully submitted that there is no motivation to combine the cited references to arrive at the present invention.

Although Endo discloses the use of a polymer, such as polyethylene and polybutylene as an olefin polymer, the polyethylene and polybutylene polymers are used to prepare the graft

copolymer, and the polyethylene or polybutylene polymer forms the backbone of the grafted polymer. In addition, Endo discloses that there are four necessary components to the invention - a polyacetal base resin, a graft copolymer, a lubricant, and an inorganic powder, which are blended to form the polyacetal resin composition of the invention. *See* page 4, lines 17-20. Further, Endo discloses that the amount of inorganic powder is based on the weight of the polyacetal base resin. Therefore, Endo teaches the addition of an inorganic powder to a polyacetal resin composition, but does not teach the addition of inorganic powder to a polyethylene-system or polybutylene-system resin, particularly since Endo teaches that the combination of the four components is essential to Endo's invention.

In view of the above, there is no teaching or suggestion in Endo that would motivate one of ordinary skill in the art to add an inorganic powder to a polybutylene-system or polyethylene-system resin to arrive at the present invention.

In addition, the Examiner cites Kawatsu as teaching the use of titanium oxide. However, there is no motivation to combine Lun, Endo and Kawatsu. In an obviousness rejection, there must be some teaching or suggestion in the prior art regarding the desirability of a modification or combination.

Although Kawatsu discloses various additives and methods for providing sliding friction, there is no disclosure in Kawatsu regarding any advantage or benefit of specifically using titanium oxide compared to the other inorganic particles. Kawatsu simply lists titanium oxide along with clay, mica, calcium carbonate, kaolin, talc and wet or dry silica. Thus, there is teaching or suggestion in Kawatsu that would motivate or lead one of ordinary skill in the art to

specifically select the use of titanium oxide, particularly since Endo discloses similar inorganic particles that can be used, to arrive at the present invention.

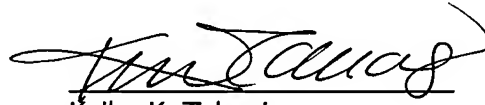
For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that there is no motivation to combine the references, and thus, a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established.

Accordingly, reconsideration withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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